

Meeting Notice

SBOH #12-005

For immediate release: June 11, 2012

Contact: Gordon MacCracken, State Board of Health, 360-236-4102

Whooping cough update on State Board of Health's June agenda

June 13, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Point Plaza East, Rooms 152/153, 310 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater

The Washington State Board of Health will hear a status report about whooping cough when it meets Wednesday, June 13, in Tumwater. More than 2,000 people are reported to have whooping cough this year in Washington, compared to 164 reported during the same period in 2011. The outbreak prompted Secretary of Health Mary Selecky to declare a statewide epidemic.

The board will hold a rules hearing and plans to adopt immunization schedule revisions to reflect changes in national immunization guidelines. A public hearing on that topic is set for 1:30 p.m.

In addition, the board may consider recommendations concerning screening for severe combined immunodeficiency ("bubble boy disease"), which makes infants who have it susceptible to life-threatening infections. Also on the agenda are briefings about Group B public water systems and about oral health risk factors.

The meeting is open to the public, and the public may provide testimony on any public health issue at about 3:20 p.m. Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the board at 360-236-4100 or on the <u>Board of Health website</u> (www.sboh.wa.gov). The emergency and media contact number for the board during the meeting is 360-701-2398.

###

The board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the <u>Board of Health website</u> (www.sboh.wa.gov/).